Taxonomic notes on Western Australian species of Pityrodia, Beaufortia and Verticordia

By A. S. George

Abstract

The correct application of the name *Pityrodia axillaris* (Endl.) Druce is shown and a new combination, *P. terminalis* (Endl.) comb. nov. is provided for the species to which the former name was incorrectly applied. *Beaufortia macrostemon* Lindl. var. *incana* Benth. is raised to specific rank.

The following names are shown to be correct for three species of *Verticordia* which have commonly been otherwise referred to—

V. brachypoda Turcz, *V. chrysostachys* Meisn. and *V. helmsii* S. Moore.

Introduction

These notes are intended to provide the correct names for several commonly-collected plants. Preliminary work is being done towards a revision of the genus *Verticordia* but it is unlikely that this or similar studies of *Beaufortia* and *Pityrodia* will appear for some years.

Pityrodia R. Br. (Dicrastylidaceae)

Pityrodia terminalis (Endl.) A. S. George comb. nov.

Basionym: *Dasymalia terminalis* Endl., in Endl. et Fenzl. Nov. Stirp. Dec. 12 (15 May 1839).

Type: Interior of S.W. Australia, *Roe*. Holo: W.

Synonyms: *Pityrodia racemosa* (Turcz.) Benth., Fl. Austral. 5:50 (1870)—*Quoya? racemosa* Turcz., Bull. Soc. Imp. Nat. Mosc. 2:194 (1863). *Types:* Western Australia, *Drummond* Coll. 3:141 and Coll. 5:73. Isosyntypes of 5:73 at PERTH, K.

Chloanthes stachyodes F. Muell., Fragm. Phyt. Austral. 5:50 (July1865)—*Quoya stachyodes* F. Muell. l.c. nomen pro syn. *Type:* In fissuris rupium graniticarum Australiae occidentalis interioris longitudine 113° 45′, latitudine 30° 15′. ?coll.

Chloanthes grandiflora Moldenke, Phytologia 2:310 (22 April 1947). *Type:* Western Australia, *J. Mauritzon*, Sept. 1936. Holo: S.

This is the species which for many years has been incorrectly referred to as *Pityrodia axillaris* (Endl.) Druce, and before the publication of that combination as *P. racemosa* (Turcz.) Benth. Examination of the types and original descriptions shows that *P. axillaris* is the species which was recently described as *P. spectabilis* C. A. Gardn. (see below). The other names cited above all apply to the same species, and Endlicher's epithet is the earliest available.

Pityrodia axillaris (Endl.) Druce, Rep. Bot. Exch. Cl. Brit. Isles 1916:640 (1917)—*Dasymalia axillaris* Endl., Nov. Stirp. Dec. 11 (15 May 1839). *Type:* Interior of S.W. Australia, *Roe*. Holo: W.

Synonym: *Pityrodia spectabilis* C. A. Gardn., Journ. Roy. Soc. W. Austral. 47:63 (1964). *Type:* in distr. Irwin prope Buntine in arenosis lutosis, fl., m. Decem., *Gardner* 12023. Holo: PERTH.

As mentioned above, the name *Pityrodia axillaris* has been incorrectly applied to the species which should be called *P. terminalis*. This led C. A. Gardner to describe as a new species the plant to which the name was originally applied. Endlicher described the stamens as included, but this was due to his examining unopened buds, the dissections of which are still present on the Holotype sheet.

Beaufortia R. Br. (Myrtaceae)

Beaufortia incana (Benth.) A. S. George comb. et stat. nov.

Basionym: *Beaufortia macrostemon* Lindl. var. *incana* Benth., Fl. Austral. 3:167 (1866). *Type:* Swan River (Western Australia), *Drummond.* Holo: K.

This differs in several important respects from typical *Beaufortia macrostemon* Lindl., and deserves specific rank. It is a tall rigidly-branched shrub of 1-2 m without a lignotuber, *i.e.* killed by fire and regenerating from seed. The leaves are narrow-linear, 1-nerved or nerveless, and densely appressed-pubescent, broader on new growth. The calyx-lobes are triangular, obtuse, ± 1 mm long(about half the length of the petals), densely pubescent, with inconspicuous nerves. The fruiting capsule is ± 2 mm diam. *Beaufortia macrostemon* is a shrub of 20-50 cm with many relatively slender branches arising from a lignotuber and regenerating from this after fire. The leaves are narrow-linear to narrow-lanceolate, 1-nerved and often with 1-2 lateral nerves, the latter sometimes marginal, and the indumentum of short and long hairs, very spreading and much less dense than in *B. incana.* The calyx-lobes are almost subulate, ± 3 mm long (as long as the petals), sparsely hirsute-pubescent, and 3-nerved. The fruiting capsule is ± 3 mm diam.

Beaufortia incana is frequent on gravelly heaths between Pingelly and Nyabing, while *B. macrostemon* occurs in open woodlands along the Darling Scarp between Mogumber and Pinjarra.

Verticordia DC. (Myrtaceae)

Attention is drawn to the correct names for the following species of *Verticordia:*

Verticordia brachypoda Turcz., Bull. Soc. Nat. Mosc. 20, 1:158 (1847). *Types:* (Western Australia) *Drummond* Coll. 3:28 (BM, FI, K); *Gilbert* 30 (n.v.).

Synonyms: *Verticordia fimbripetala* Turcz., Bull. Soc. Nat. Mosc. 22, 1:19 (1849). *Type: Drummond* 4:47 (FI, K, NSW, W.).

Verticordia stylotricha Diels, Bot. Jahrb. 35:403 (1904). *Type:* pr. Tammin in arenosis fruticulosis apertis flor, m. Oct., *Diels* 5052 (BM, E, K, P.).

Note that *V. multiflora* Turcz. is a distinct species differing from *V. brachypoda* in the bright yellow flowers and in floral morphology. The two were considered conspecific by W. E. Blackall in How to Know Western Australian Wildflowers Vol. 1, p. 278 (1954), but the varietal combination cited there (*V. multiflora* var. *stylotricha*) has never been validly published.

Verticordia chrysostachys Meisn., Journ. Linn. Soc. Bot. 1:41 (1857). *Type:* (Western Australia) *Drummond* Coll. 6:46 (Holo: NY, iso: BM, CGE, E, FI, K, P. W).

Note that this is the correct spelling, not *chrysostachya* as used by Bentham and subsequent workers.

Verticordia helmsii S. Moore, Journ. Linn. Soc. Bot. 34:190 (1898). *Type:* Nr. Gnarlbine, fl. Nov., *S. Moore* (K, NY); ad Warangering, *Helms* " in Herb. Kew " (n.v.).

Synonym: *Verticordia adenocalyx* Diels, Bot. Jahrb. 35:404 (1904). *Type:* pr. Karalee inter fruticeta praecipue Acaciarum in arenosis, fl. m. Nov., *Diels* 5566 (n.v.).

Although the type of *V. adenocalyx* has not been found, the description, and area and time of collection, agree well with those of *V. helmsii.*

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